facilities such as overseas banking units, hedging of commodity risks and external commercial borrowings in the Special Economic Zones, etc. are steps in this direction. Similarly introduction of transparent and simple procedure for the various schemes as also grant of special dispensation to status holders would encourage our exporters to show better performance.

On the import front even with removal of Quantitative Restrictions there has not been no appreciable surge in the imports of most commodities. In order to provide level playing field (to domestic producer *vis-a-vis* producers in foreign countries) mandatory registration with Bureau of Indian Standards in respect of 133 products have been notified. From time to time Government monitors the situation and if necessary, adjustments in the tariff rates in consultation with the Ministry of Finance are taken recourse to.

Export of key products

†3106. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not been able to locate the markets for the exports of the products of the key sectors of the country due to which the nation has to incur heavy losses;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to export the agricultural produce of the country due to which that peasants have to incur heavy loss; and

(c) by when Government will be able to export the key products of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir. Exporting merchandise goods by and large, is an activity under private enterprise. However, Government and other agencies connected with international trade help private entrepreneurs in

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

locating the markets and facilitate exports. Identification of markets and products is an ongoing exercise in the Department of Commerce. Recently the Medium Term Export Strategy has identified products of key sectors and 25 countries with export potential in order to achieve 1% share in world exports by 2006-07.

(b) No, Sir. As per the latest available provisional data from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI & S), Calcutta, export of Agriculture and Allied Products have registered a growth rate of 4.76% during April-December, 2001-02 as compared to the corresponding period of the last year.

(c) Does not arise.

Impact of Exim Policy

3107. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the overall impact of the Exim Policy 2001; and

(b) to what extent exporters have been benefited by the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The Exim Policy 1997—2002 (incorporating amendments made upto 31.03.2001) managed to fulfil the goals of enhancing technological strength and efficiency of Indian agriculture, industry and services; stimulating sustained economic growth; accelerating the country's transition to globally vibrant economy and providing consumers with goods quality products at reasonable prices. The export growth rate during the period April, 2001 to January, 2002 was 5.98%. The Indian exporters have been benefited by simple and transparent duty neutralisation schemes and market access initiatives undertaken by the Government. The computerisation of functioning of various agencies ralated to exports has helped in reducing transaction cost and time.